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Title: Need to include Marathi community in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to invite the attention of the Government with regard to some important issue pertaining to the State of Kerala.

Sir, the Marathi community in the northern part of Kerala was included in the ST List in the very early years. In 2003, during the time of the NDA Government, without any proper verification, this poor community was excluded from the ST List.

After that, the UDF Government, the LDF Government, and all the political parties had requested the Central Government to include them in the ST List. Sir, there was no reason for their exclusion. The norms in respect of the Tribe for the inclusion in the ST List are that especially the Tribe must be the primitive nature; the tribal character; the geographical isolation; and educational and financial backwardness. These still exist in respect of this Marathi community in Karnataka.

Sir, the Marathi community people who are living ten kilometres away from the border of Kerala are still in the ST List. So, there is no justification for their exclusion from the ST List. So, this matter has to be taken seriously by the Government.